



## West Valley City Essential Piece Awards

Each year several hundred low income Utah parents struggle to meet their basic needs of their children. In light of the current economic downturn people were hit especially hard this year. The idea that any child would go without at Christmastime is almost too much to bear. West Valley City has continued its commitment to helping as many of these families as possible. The West Valley City Giving Tree celebrated its seventh successful year by aiding 40 families with a total of over 150 children. The children received clothing, socks, shoes, coats, books and most importantly toys.

Countless hours were put into this project by many West Valley City employees. However, the success of the Giving Tree would not have been at all possible without the help of a few individuals and their respective corporations. It is only appropriate to give them a very public and very heartfelt thank you.

The Valley Fair Mall Management has been extremely gracious in volunteering their facilities and their personnel. **Marketing Director J.P. Swain** coordinated the picking of children's names and the receiving of the gifts. She was a liaison between the mall management and the City. She was always friendly and eager to help. We truly express our gratitude to **J.P. Swain** and everyone at the Valley Fair Mall.

The wrapping and giving of the gifts are a large part of the Giving Tree. For this purpose, a large facility is needed. The Management of the Hollywood Connection, specifically **Manager Larry Curry**, rolled out the red carpet for West Valley. Dozens of volunteers wrapped presents on the roller skating rink and were treated to food and drinks compliments of Hollywood Connection. On the day of the presentation, the children and their families were invited to Hollywood Connection for a free breakfast. They received their gifts and were allowed to ride as many rides as they wanted, again, all compliments of Hollywood Connection and **Larry Curry**. We express our gratitude to **Curry** and everyone at Hollywood Connection.

Many people have asked "Where does West Valley City get all the names and information of the children who they help?" The City enlisted the help of the Salt Lake Community Action Program: Head Start Program. **Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Morley**. She provided the names and information of over 150 children and their families. She was the important link between the families and the City. Morley's help was vital in the success of the 2008 West Valley Giving Tree and we would like to extend our appreciation to her.